

# Pretty Ring Time



A Setting of Shakespeare's Poem for  
SATB, Piano and Percussion  
(six players)

Percussion parts may be arranged to available instruments

Peter Dyson  
1981

## **(It Was A) Lover and His Lass**

*Lyrics by William Shakespeare*

It was a lover and his lass,  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
That o'er the green corn-field did pass  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,  
When birds do sing, *Hey ding a ding, ding:*  
Sweet lovers love the spring.

Between the acres of the rye,  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
These pretty country folks would lie,  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,  
When birds do sing, *Hey ding a ding, ding:*  
Sweet lovers love the spring.

This carol they began that hour,  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
How that a life was but a flower,  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,  
When birds do sing, *Hey ding a ding, ding:*  
Sweet lovers love the spring.

And therefore take the present time,  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
For love is crowned with the prime  
*With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,*  
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,  
When birds do sing, *Hey ding a ding, ding:*  
Sweet lovers love the spring.

# Pretty Ring Time

Words by William Shakespeare (1564 -1616)

1981

Peter Dyson

**Lively and lightly** (♩ = 120)

*mf*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

1. It was a  
2. Be-tween the  
3. This ca - rol  
4. And there-fore

*mf*

1. It was a  
2. Be-tween the  
3. This ca - rol  
4. And there-fore

Triangle

Tambourine

Cymbals

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

Glockenspiel  
or Chime Bars

*mf*

**Lively and lightly** (♩ = 120)

Piano

*mf*



6

S.

lo-ver and his lass, With a hey and a ho, and a  
a-cres of the rye,  
they be-gan that hour,  
take the pre-sent time,

A.

lo-ver and his lass, With a hey and a ho, and a  
a-cres of the rye,  
they be-gan that hour,  
take the pre-sent time,

T.

*mf*  
1. It was a lo-ver and his lass, With a hey and a ho, and a  
2. Be tween the a-cres of the rye,  
3. This ca - rol they be-gan that hour,  
4. And there-fore take the pre-sent time,

B.

*mf*  
1. It was a lo-ver and his lass, With a hey and a ho, and a  
2. Be tween the a-cres of the rye,  
3. This ca - rol they be-gan that hour,  
4. And there-fore take the pre-sent time,

Tri.

Tamb.

Cym.

S. D.

B. D.

Chime Bars

Pno

12

S.

hey-no - ni - no, 1. That o'er the green corn - field did pass,  
 2. These pre - tty coun - try folks would lie,  
 3. How that a life was but a flow'r,  
 4. For love is crow-nèd with the prime,

A.

hey no - ni - no, 1. That o'er the green corn - field did pass,  
 2. These pre - tty coun - try folks would lie,  
 3. How that a life was but a flow'r,  
 4. For love is crow-nèd with the prime,

T.

hey no - ni - no, 1. That o'er the green corn - field did pass,  
 2. These pre - tty coun - try folks would lie,  
 3. How that a life was but a flow'r,  
 4. For love is crow-nèd with the prime,

B.

hey no - ni - no, 1. That o'er the green corn - field did pass,  
 2. These pre - tty coun - try folks would lie,  
 3. How that a life was but a flow'r,  
 4. For love is crow-nèd with the prime,

Tri.

Tamb.

Cym.

S. D.

B. D.

Chime Bars

Pno

18

S. *f* In the Spring time, The on-ly pre-tty ring time when birds do

A. *f* In the Spring time, the on-ly pre-tty ring time when birds do

T. *f* In the Spring time, the on-ly pre-tty ring time when birds do

B. *f* in the Spring time, the on-ly pre-tty ring time when birds do

Tri.  
Tamb.  
Cym.  
S. D.  
B. D.

Chime Bars *f*

Pno *f*

**poco rall.**

**A tempo**

7

24

1.2.3.

S. sing, Hey ding-a-ding ding: Sweet lo - vers love the Spring.

A. sing, Hey ding-a-ding ding: Sweet lo - vers love the Spring.

T. sing, Hey ding-a-ding ding: Sweet lo - vers love the Spring.

B. sing, Hey ding-a-ding ding: Sweet lo - vers love the Spring.

Tri.

Tamb.

Cym.

S. D.

B. D.

Chime Bars

**poco rall.**

**A tempo**

1.2.3.

Pno

30

S. Spring. Fine

A. Spring.

T. Spring.

B. Spring.

Tri.

Tamb.

Cym.

S. D.

B. D.

Chime Bars

Pno

Fine

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Great Bardfield 1981' contains measures 30 through 33. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and instrumental parts for Triangle, Tambourine, Cymbals, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Chime Bars, and Piano. The vocal parts have a 'Spring' effect in measures 30-32 and a 'Fine' ending in measure 33. The instrumental parts provide rhythmic accompaniment, with the piano part featuring a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings.